No. 5441 of 1871.

Revenue Department.

To

The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT,

Bombay.

Púna, 19*th October* 1871.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward copies of the papers noted in the margin, on the completion of the City Survey inquiry of Balsar. This is the first town settled under the Act, and the financial results may be such as to influence the policy of Government in their concessions to future Municipalities to which the Act may be extended.

No. 1825, dated 22nd August 1871, with accompaniments.

2. But, before entering on the financial aspect of the question as evolved from the statements which have been submitted, some of the salient features of the report may be here briefly noticed.

3. The Survey commenced in 1864, but no very energetic measures appear to have been taken till after the application of the Súrat rules by Government Resolution No. 1696, dated 29th April 1868, when the enquiry work was taken up by Mr. Mulock and subsequently completed by Mr. Carey, on whom the chief labour has fallen. It will be observed with pleasure that Messrs. Hope and Beyts acknowledge the tact of Mr. Carey in bringing the work to a satisfactory conclusion.

4. Provident measures have been taken for the widening and straightening streets. The work will now devolve upon the Municipality, who will have to be on the watch for every opportunity to carry out the measures proposed, and when completed, broad streets in place of narrow crooked ones will not be among the least of the benefits derived from the City Survey.

5. Mr. Carey advocates a ground-rent of half a pie per square yard on Gamtalio sites, while Mr. Beyts and Mr. Hope are in favour of a one pie rental. Mr. Carey's plea that the non-agricultural cess will touch the people who occupy these sites, and if a higher ground-rent were charged than absolutely necessary to preserve the Government right might cause dissatisfaction, is worthy of consideration, and as a tentative measure a rental of half a pie may be authorized, or perhaps it may be possible to divide the

sites into 2 classes,—1st class might be assessed at one pie and 2nd class at half a pie. It is also politic to gradually accustom the people at large centres to a tax on building sites in view of legislation in that direction. It will be in the recollection of Government that such a tax, or one very similar, was discussed lately when it became necessary to supplement Provincial Funds by local taxation.

6. The sum realized by the Survey is Rs. 19,350-3-3 besides an annual sum of Rs. 158-4-6. The latter is wholly credited to Government, while of the former Rs. 6,666-13-11 is the share of Government, against Rs. 12,607-8-10 the share of the Municipality, leaving a small balance of Rupees 75-10-5 still outstanding.

7. The total expense of the Survey is set down at Rs. 18,736-5-8, which has been borne by the Municipality and Government, the former contributing Rs. 8,123-0-9, the latter Rs. 10,613-4-11.

8. I can see no just reason for excluding the pay of the Inquiry Officer from the cost of the Survey, but taking it into calculation it will be seen that Government have paid Rs. 10,613-4-11 and in return have received Rs. 6,666-13-11 in cash, and Rs. 158-4-6 annually, this capitalized at 5 per cent. is Rs. 3,165-10-0—together Rs. 9,832-7-11, a difference only of Rs. 280-13-0, and this small loss will be at once made up by the fixing of a rental of a pie or half a pie per square yard, on the Gamtalio sites. The financial results of the Survey must then be considered as satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

L. R. ASHBURNER,

Acting Revenue Commissioner, N.D.